



Acton Historic District Commission  
Meeting January 24, 2012  
Minutes

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice Chair, Pam Lynn.

Also present were David Honn (DH), Anita Rogers (AR), Ron Rose (RR), Michaela Moran (MM), David Barrat (DB) and Mike Gowing (MG) Board of Selectmen Liaison.

There were no citizens' concerns

Minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Application from Twin Seafood. LoBlando submitted application to HDC to put up a sign on the front of the store. DH The sign is pretty big relative to the size of the front of the building. This would be a great location for a "Guild" sign. The gooseneck lamps as shown on the illustration attached to the application are no longer there. Is there a logo for Twin Seafood? AR will be meeting with the owner on Wednesday morning. RR Why is there symmetry in the sign? MM The sign is much bigger than the one put there by Village Art. That sign was pretty rectangular. Signs are limited by the Historic District by-law to an area of no more than 6 Square feet. The shape is a problem; the logo is a problem. Will revisit at our next meeting. RR A projecting sign might be better; the visibility might be more attractive. You double the area because it would be two-sided. Could illuminate it from the building.

7:45 pm-App. 1167, Sign, 537 Mass. Ave.: Reference to reworked sign REVOLUTION COMMUNITY YOGA that was revised. Dimensions are 42.5" by 24". When approving this sign we need to specify the same dimensions. MM The lettering is too tight to the edge of the sign. It needs to float in a sea of red. The lettering should be 4-5" from the edge on either side. RR four inches from either side works better. Others all agree to require a 4" space between the edges of the sign and the lettering. This will require that the lettering be grouped closer together. Also keep the bottom margin between the bottom of the word YOGA larger than the top margin and the top of the word REVOLUTION. Other conditions for approval are that the sign be painted wood with red background as shown in the latest illustration submitted with the application; dimensions are 42.5" by 24". Motion to approve the application with the above conditions by AR seconded by MM approved unanimously.

South Acton Congregational Church: Certificate of Applicability; could the application be amended. There is nothing in the certificate of applicability about lighting the approved sign. No mention of lighting in the original application. The sign has been moved away from the street toward the church as required by the Planning Department. An amendment would not create a need for abutters' notices. The installation of a lighting facility for the sign would require an electrical conduit and placement where it would not be visible, perhaps screened by vegetation as before. Need to decide this at the next meeting.

No response from Town Counsel as yet regarding the possible changes to the HDC sign by-law. TC will let us elucidate -meaning changes to allow flags 2 signs might need a TM by-law change.

8:30 Public hearing regarding changes to the HDC's sign by-law was reopened and after five minutes was continued to the next HDC meeting on February 14, 2012 at 8:00 PM. Other issues to be included in the reopened hearing are the use of LEDs.

Acton Garden Club (AGC) sign to be placed at Meeting House Hill. Present was Pat Kosicki (PK) to present a revised sign to be placed at Meeting House Hill. This sign will replace an earlier one that was lost or damaged. Two samples of signs were presented by PK; one shows "1736" in italics, the other in plain numerals. ACG really wants to include the date, "1736," in the sign as it appeared in the previous sign. They will defer to the HDC if the commission is dead set against it. RR Likes the one showing the 1736 in italics. The wording "Acton Garden Club" appearing below "Gardens Maintained by the" should be more prominent than "Gardens Maintained" and should be increased in font size sufficient to align with the margins of the wording above. Also the space between the town insignia and "Acton Garden Club should also be decreased. DH Also prefers the sign with the italicized date. Would like to see use of a more authentic font on the sign. He will locate an example of authentic font and email it to PK. The sign will be mounted on a heavy 4" by 4" pressure treated pole with a cedar cap and black metal bracket. The bracket width should be inboard of the sign's width by a couple of inches. AR, MM and RR agree with this arrangement. AR would like to see more space between date and "Meeting House Hill" so that it sits separately as it did in the original sign. Font for "Gardens Maintained" so that "Acton Garden Club" is at least as wide. Also lower the position of "Meeting House Hill." In addition the sign must be painted wood, double sided with block lettering. Sign dimensions to be 2' by 3', attached to a wood 4" by 4" cedar post. The cap is to be black metal bracket. Moved and passed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted

  
David T. Barrat,  
Secretary